

of time for responding to the outstanding action and the fee therefor are submitted herewith.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by adding the following Abstract of the Disclosure, which also appears in a separate sheet at the end of this paper:

Abstract Of The Disclosure

B/ Carpet backings and use thereof in tufted carpets with good tuft bind and fuzz resistance and free of inorganic and latex materials are disclosed. Backings suitable as tuftable primary backings or as secondary backings have a nonwoven fabric with thermoplastic filaments and a thermoplastic supporting fabric operatively attached as by needling, thermal calendaring or point bonding.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 18, 20 and 22.

Please amend claims 15 and 16 as follows:

B ✓ 15. A carpet backing comprising a nonwoven adhesive fabric needled or thermally bonded to a supporting fabric, wherein the nonwoven adhesive fabric is a self-bonded or spunbonded nonwoven fabric comprising continuous filaments of a thermoplastic resin and the supporting fabric is a tuftable woven primary backing fabric comprising thermoplastic warp and weft yarns having substantially rectangular cross-sections, or an open weave secondary backing fabric comprising thermoplastic warp yarns with a substantially rectangular cross-section and thermoplastic weft yarns that are spun yarns or yarns having a substantially rectangular cross-section.

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Contd

16. A primary carpet backing according to Claim 15 in which the supporting fabric is a tuftable woven primary backing fabric comprising thermoplastic warp and weft yarns having substantially rectangular cross-sections.

[Please add new claims 40-59 as follows:]

40. The primary carpet backing of Claim 16 in which the supporting fabric is a polyolefin fabric.

41. The primary carpet backing of Claim 40 in which the supporting fabric is woven from polypropylene yarns.

42. The primary carpet backing of Claim 41 in which the nonwoven fabric is a spunbonded fabric.

43. The primary carpet backing of Claim 41 in which the nonwoven fabric is a self-bonded fabric.

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44. The primary carpet backing of Claim 41 in which the substantially continuous filaments comprise a thermoplastic resin having a melting point at least about 20°C less than the melting point of the thermoplastic resin of the yarns of the supporting fabric.

45. The primary carpet backing of claim 16 tufted with carpet face yarn.

46. A secondary carpet backing according to Claim 15 in which the supporting fabric is an open weave secondary carpet backing fabric comprising thermoplastic warp yarns with a substantially rectangular cross-section and thermoplastic weft yarns that are spun yarns or yarns having a substantially rectangular cross-section.

47. The secondary carpet backing according to claim 46 in which the weft yarns comprise spun yarns.

48. The secondary carpet backing of claim 47 in which the warp and weft yarns comprise polypropylene yarns.

49. The secondary carpet backing of Claim 48 in which the warp and weft yarns are woven in a 16 X 5 count.

50. The secondary carpet backing of Claim 49 in which the warp and weft yarns are woven in a leno weave.

51. The secondary carpet backing of Claim 15 in which the substantially continuous filaments comprise a thermoplastic resin having a melting point at least about 20°C less than the melting point of the thermoplastic resin of the yarns of the supporting fabric.

52. A secondary carpet backing comprising a needlepunched nonwoven fabric comprising filaments of a thermoplastic resin needled or thermally bonded to an open weave fabric woven from thermoplastic warp yarns of substantially rectangular cross-section and weft yarns that are spun yarns or that have a substantially rectangular cross-section.

53. The secondary carpet backing of Claim 52 in which the filaments of the needlepunched nonwoven fabric are continuous filaments.

54. The secondary carpet backing of claim 52 in which the filaments of the needlepunched nonwoven fabric are staple fibers.

55. The secondary carpet backing of claim 52 in which the warp and weft yarns of the open weave fabric are polypropylene yarns.

56. The secondary carpet backing of claim 55 in which the weft yarns are spun yarns.

57. The secondary carpet backing of Claim 56 in which the polypropylene yarns are woven in a 16 x 5 count.

58. The secondary carpet backing of claim 57 in which the filaments of the needlepunched nonwoven fabric are staple fibers.